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BOOK REVIEWS

Wading Birds of the World, Eric and Richard Soothill. 334 pp., 6 × 9½, Blandford Press, England, Sterling Publishing Co. Inc., New York. Hardbound, indexed, \$29.95.

This book covers the sixteen orders of wading birds, over 300 species. The book consists of discussions of the individual species. As a minimum it gives "Description" and "Habitat and Distribution"; for the more important species it includes "Description", "Characteristics and Behaviour", "Habitat", "Food", "Voice", "Display" (surprisingly often "not recorded" or the like), "Breeding", "Distribution", a color photo or a line drawing (96 color, 70 line), and a map of the world (about two inches wide) showing the breeding distribution. For those species whose common name in America differs from that in Britain (this is a British book) the American name is given in the species account and included in the index. There is one exception — we regard the Black-necked Stilt as a separate species (*Himantopus mexicanus*). It is not indexed by either name, and the only indication in the book of its existence is the following sentence under "Distribution" of the Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*): "*H. h. mexicanus* breeds in southern and western USA, through Central America, the West Indies, and the coastlands of north-western South America (there is also a black-necked variety, with black head, hindneck, and upper face; with white forehead, and white patch over eye)." but once one knows this, there is no problem. The book's order is not that of the new AOU Checklist, but with the large number on Non-American birds the index would be quicker anyhow. There is a one page biography. (This book, like Palmer, lumps the White-faced Ibis with the Glossy Ibis. The index entry is a parenthetical entry under Glossy; no entry under W.)

The North American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*); A Case Study of 28 Years of Failure in American Wildlife Management, John W. Grandy, Supplement to International Journal for the Study of Animal Problems, 4(4)1983. Washington, D.C.

A dismal, discouraging record of the continued failure of the authorities to do anything effective to reduce the continued decline in the numbers of the Black Duck.

Banquets for Birds, National Audubon Society, 28 pp. 6 × 9, softbound, \$1.60 postpaid from Information Services, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

A quick summary of information on the subject: diversity, selectivity, and scientific observation; distribution, dependency, and timing; lazy landscapes, scalloped edges, and likely birds; food, feeders, and special needs; hazards, predators, and pests; relative attractiveness of bird feeds for some common birds; preferred foods of common birds (does anyone really want to attract House Sparrows and Starlings, or are they included so one will know what not to put out in order to decrease their numbers?); favorite hummingbird plants; a selection of plantings beneficial to birds; and a list of books on the subject.

The Bird Identification Calendar 1984, the Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT, 14 pp., 12¼ × 11, \$6.95.

As an engagement calendar it is like most of the others; the prime difference is in the seventy or so color pictures by John Sill, and the short comments that go with each, which may contain little items that you never knew, or had forgotten. This is a continuation of the series of such calendars prepared under the auspices of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.